

CLAIMS

1. Testing system for use in testing a system-under-test (SUT), the testing system comprising:

5 a first logic section that may transmit one or more test-related signals for use during a test mode of the SUT;

a second logic section that may transmit one or more other signals during a normal operating mode of the SUT; and

10 a third logic section that selectively couples one of the first logic section and the second logic section to the SUT based upon respective assertion states of two control signals, one of the two control signals being transmitted to the third logic section from a source that is external to the SUT, the first logic section, the second logic section, and the third logic section, the other of the two control signals being transmitted to the third logic section from the first logic section;

15 wherein:

when the third logic section couples the first logic section to the SUT, the first logic section may transmit the one or more test-related signals to the SUT, and when the third logic section couples the second logic section to the SUT, the second logic section may transmit the one or more other
20 signals to the SUT.

2. The testing system of claim 1, wherein the first logic section comprises built-in-self-test (BIST) logic and the one or more test-related signals comprise test input signals for use in testing the SUT.

3. The testing system of claim 1, wherein the first logic section may provide an indication signal to the second logic section for indicating when the first logic section is attempting to test the SUT.

5

4. The testing system of claim 3, wherein the second logic section may provide to an input/output (I/O) controller an indication that the testing of the SUT is occurring, the I/O controller being external to the first logic section, the second logic section, the third logic section, and the SUT.

10

5. The testing system of claim 4, wherein, in response to the indication from the second logic section, the I/O controller may cause a data transfer occurring contemporaneously with the testing of the SUT to be invalidated.

15

6. The testing system of claim 1, wherein the respective assertion state of the one of the two control signals may be selected.

7. The testing system of claim 1, wherein:

when the third logic section couples the first logic section to the SUT, the first

20

logic section may receive one or more test outputs from the SUT, the one or more test output signals being generated by the SUT in response to the one or more test-related signals, and the first logic section may compare the one or more test outputs to one or more expected test outputs whereby to determine results of the testing.

8. The testing system of claim 1, wherein:

if both of the control signals are asserted, the third logic section couples the first logic section to the SUT;

5 if at least one of the control signals is unasserted, the third logic section couples the second logic section to the SUT.

9. The testing system of claim 1, wherein:

the SUT comprises a memory; and

10 the second logic section may be used in causing the memory to store an erroneous value that may be detected during the testing.

10. Testing system for use in testing a plurality of systems-under-test, the testing system comprising:

15 a first logic section;

a plurality of second logic sections;

a plurality of third logic sections;

each respective third logic section being coupled to the first logic section and to a respective second logic section, and being configured to selectively couple one of the first logic section and the respective second logic section to a respective system-under-test based upon a respective control signal from the first logic section and also based upon another control signal, the another control signal being transmitted to each third logic

20

section from a source that is external to the plurality of systems-under-test, the first logic section, the plurality of second logic sections, and the plurality of third logic sections;

wherein:

when the first logic section is coupled to the respective SUT, the first logic section may transmit one or more test-related signals to the respective SUT, and when the respective second logic section is coupled to the respective SUT, the respective second logic section may transmit one or more respective other signals to the respective SUT.

11. The testing system of claim 10, wherein the testing system is comprised in an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), and the source is external to the ASIC.

12. The testing system of claim 11, wherein:

the first logic section comprises programmable built-in-self-test logic, and the first logic section is coupled to each of the third logic sections and to each of the second logic sections.

13. Method of using a testing system for testing a system-under-test (SUT), the testing system including a first logic section, a second logic section, and a third logic section, the method comprising:

selectively coupling, via the third logic section, one of the first logic section and the second logic section to the SUT based upon respective assertion states of two control signals, one of the two control signals being transmitted to the third logic section from a

source that is external to the SUT, the first logic section, the second logic section, and the third logic section, the other of the two control signals being transmitted to the third logic section from the first logic section;

transmitting to the SUT from the first logic section, when the first logic section is
5 coupled to the SUT via the third logic section, one or more test-related signals;
and

transmitting to the SUT from the second logic section, when the second logic
section is coupled to the SUT via the third logic section, one or more other signals to the
SUT.

10
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the first logic section comprises built-in-self-test
(BIST) logic and the one or more test-related signals comprise test input signals for use in
testing the SUT.

15 15. The method of claim 13, further comprising, providing from the first logic section
an indication signal to the second logic section for indicating when the first logic section
is attempting to test the SUT.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising, providing from the second logic
20 section an indication to an input/output (I/O) controller that the testing of the SUT is
occurring, the I/O controller being external to the first logic section, the second logic
section, the third logic section, and the SUT.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein, in response to the indication from the second logic section, the I/O controller causes a data transfer occurring contemporaneously with the testing of the SUT to be invalidated.

5 18. The method of claim 13, wherein the respective assertion state of the one of the two control signals may be selected.

19. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

10 receiving at the first logic section, when the third logic section couples the first logic section to the SUT, one or more test outputs from the SUT, the one or more test outputs being generated by the SUT in response to the one or more test-related signals; and

comparing at the first logic section the one or more test outputs to one or more expected test output signals.

15

20. The method of claim 13, wherein:

if both of the control signals are asserted, the first logic section is coupled via the third logic section to the SUT; and

if at least one of the control signals is unasserted, the second logic section is coupled via the third logic section to the SUT.

21. The method of claim 13, wherein:

the SUT comprises a memory; and

the method further comprises using the second logic section to cause the memory to store an erroneous value that may be detected by the first logic section during the testing.

22. Method of using a testing system that may be used to test a plurality of systems-under-test, the testing system including a first logic section, a plurality of second logic sections, and a plurality of third logic sections, each respective third logic section being coupled to the first logic section and to a respective second logic section, the method comprising:

configuring each respective third logic section to selectively couple one of the first logic section and the respective second logic section to a respective system-under-test based upon a respective control signal from the first logic section and also based upon another control signal, the another control signal being transmitted to each third logic section from a source that is external to the plurality of systems-under-test, the first logic section, the plurality of second logic sections, and the plurality of third logic sections;

transmitting from the first logic section, when the first logic section is coupled to the respective SUT, one or more test-related signals to the respective SUT; and transmitting from the respective second logic section, when the respective second logic section is coupled to the respective SUT, one or more respective other signals to the respective SUT.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the testing system is comprised in an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), and the source is external to the ASIC.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein:

5 the first logic section comprises programmable built-in-self-test logic, and the first logic section is coupled to each of the third logic sections and to each of the second logic sections.